

Dear FCC,

This is in regards to petition RM-10785 filed by Eric Ward, N0HHS. In his petition Mr. Ward seeks immediate elimination of "proficiency in telegraphy using Morse code," saying it's no longer justified. And that the "immediate removal of the telegraphy requirement from Amateur Radio licensing is appropriate and clearly in the public interest," Ward contends in his petition. I disagree with Mr. Wards comments and say No to RM-10785.

Morse code is still being widely used in the amateur radio service, the commercial radio industry, and by people who are physically disabled or handicapped as a means of communicating with others. American NASA Astronauts to this day still use Morse code, the U.S. Navy still uses light Morse too. If Morse code is still being utilized by our own government and by people who are physically disabled, licensed amateur radio operators, and non amateurs how can it be obsolete.

I myself being an ARRL Amateur Radio Volunteer Examiner for the past several years have seen people show up to exam sessions who were visually or hearing impaired or both. Those individuals were still able to pass any exam element they were administered, why, because they studied and prepared for the exams, which is something most people don't do or want to do these days.

The Commission has already helped and encouraged the use of Amateur Radio by implementing restructuring and reducing the Morse code speed requirement from 20 words per minute to the slow speed of 5 words per minute. But now some people want to do away with the Morse code requirement altogether.

The Amateur Service community is not suffering from the loss to its ranks of a large number of potentially excellent operators because of the Morse code requirement as some people are claiming.

The requirement for new prospective amateur applicants as well as other radio amateurs to demonstrate a Morse code skill for HF access should remain as it is now, and should not be changed or removed by the commission.

Governments that still require Morse code testing for amateur radio licensing or HF access, far exceed those countries or governments that do not. In my opinion for the Commission to do away with the Morse code requirement would be a big mistake that would only damage amateur radio's future and its reputation of

having certified, qualified, skilled, and competent operators.

The fact that lots of radio amateurs have taken and passed the Morse code examination requirement over the years for HF access and continue to pass it even now, shows that Morse code testing is not a hindrance, limiting, or preventing licensed amateurs from upgrading and it does not prevent or stop people from getting amateur radio licenses either.

We the United States should not make our decisions based on what other governments are acting upon.  
I say no to RM-10785.

Sincerely,

Victor Magana, N1VM